

ON

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YALDING KENT

THE POTATO EELWORM

BY R. P. THOMAS, DIP. HORT.

County Instructor, Monmouthshire

This is the most serious pest of the potato, and infestation is rapidly on the increase.

Symptoms

The sprouts from the seed tubers are late coming through the soil and the haulm growth is very weak, spindly and stunted. The foliage is dull and pale and at an early date they curl and wilt. The root system is much reduced and the tubers produced are few in number and small in size. Cysts (hard cases containing eggs) are easily seen on the rootlets.

Cysts are present on infected soil and the potato excretes a substance which stimulates the hatching of the eggs which burst open, the cysts thereupon entering the rootlets of the plant. The larvae (grub stage) bore just below the surface layers of the rootlet, and in a few weeks the females become swollen and flask-shaped. Later the body portion breaks through the outside of the root. After fertilisation the female degenerates until it becomes a cyst filled with eggs. The cysts at first are creamy-white in colour, but later they become brown, and drop off into the soil, where they remain until the following spring.

Control Measures

Up to the present the only satisfactory method of control is the application of *Calcium Cyanamide*, applied at the rate of 1 cwt. per 10 perch plot. This should be thoroughly mixed with the soil about three to four weeks prior to planting, and when the ground is moderately dry.

NOTE.—Eelworms attack the rootlets and not the tubers.

THE TENURE PROBLEM—MINISTER'S VIEW

Mr. A. V. ALEXANDER, M.P. for one of the Sheffield Divisions, a prominent leader in the Co-operative Movement, one-time First Lord of the Admiralty, and a good friend of the Allotment Movement, was so concerned about the insecurity of allotments that he wrote specially to Mr. Morrison, Minister of Agriculture, about the matter.

The following reply is, on the whole, a very reasonable statement of the position as it is, although it is not so good as we would wish it to be. One can detect an undertone of sympathy for our cause, and we cannot help feeling that if it rested with Mr. Morrison alone he would go a long way towards meeting our desires:—

"I have already had under consideration proposals submitted by the National Allotments Society, Ltd., during 1937, designed to